

REMARKS

The Office Action dated June 30, 2008, has been received and carefully noted. The above amendments to the claims, and the following remarks, are submitted as a full and complete response thereto. Additionally, an interview is respectfully requested on the basis of the enclosed Request for Continued Examination (RCE).

Claims 1-2, 5-9, 12-18, 21-25, 28-34, 37-40, and 43-44 are currently pending in the application, of which claims 1, 8, 15, 17, 24, 31, 33, and 39 are independent claims. Claims 1, 8, 17, 24, 33, and 39 have been amended to more particularly point out and distinctly claim the invention. No new matter has been added. Claims 3-4, 10-11, 19-20, 26-27, 35-36, and 41-42 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 1-2, 5-9, 12-18, 21-25, 28-34, 37-40, and 43-44 are respectfully submitted for consideration.

It is respectfully submitted that the Final Office Action mailed June 30, 2008, was incomplete, as claims 17-23 and 36 were not addressed with any detailed rejection (although they were listed as rejected on the Office Action summary sheet). According any new rejection of claims 17-23 and/or 36 cannot be made final.

Applicants respectfully request an interview with the Examiner and (since the Examiner lacks signatory authority) the Examiner's Primary regarding this application. In particular, Applicants would like to discuss (via Applicants' representative) the following with the Examiner at the Examiner's earliest convenience. It is believed, based on the "Response to Arguments" section of the Office Action of June 30, 2008, that the

issues raised below as presented in the previous response may not have been fully understood. Accordingly, Applicants seek this opportunity to clarify the arguments presented, in order to expedite prosecution.

At item 10, the previous Office Action had discussed the features of independent claims 8, 15, 24 and 31, by comparing those features to Owen. For the discussion below, the “first feature,” “second feature,” and so forth is in reference to the list presented in the previous Office Action. It is believed that the rejection has not be substantially modified

Before a detailed discussion of those features, however, it must be noted that a fundamental differences is that journal entries always relate to changes made in the database. Certain embodiments of the present invention are designed for preventing any changes except adding a new complete record with corresponding integrity check sum. These two elements are always new information that cannot be derived from modifications of the earlier data.

First feature: it is said in the Office Action that “retrieving a second data record to be verified from the single database,” as recited in claim 8, corresponds to “the minimized data journal entry is read,” as allegedly taught in Owen. These two things are not the same because the second data record (as claimed) is a complete data record and not a minimized journal entry, as the term “data record” would be interpreted by one of ordinary skill in the art, reading the claim in light of the specification without importing limitations from the specification into the claims.

Second feature: it is said in the Office Action that “retrieving a second integrity checksum,” as recited in claim 8, corresponds to a redundancy check. The checksum (as claimed), however, is used only for checking the integrity of the data record. Integrity is not same as redundancy. Integrity means that the contents of the records must not have been altered to any changes and the records must be in the same order as they were stored. Then, it is said in the Office Action that “when the minimized data journal entry is to be applied to the corresponding database record, a validation value for the record is first computed using the same algorithm used to compute the validation value stored in the journal entry.” (emphasis added) In the cited step of the method, however, nothing is computed but the integrity checksum is retrieved from the database. Thus, the alleged correspondence is improper.

Third feature: the Office Action indicated that “retrieving a first integrity checksum” (as recited in claim 8) corresponds to “the validation value comprises a checksum that is computed using both the data in the old record and the metadata for the old record,” as allegedly taught in Owen. This has a similar problem to the previous argument, as nothing is computed in the recited step.

Furthermore, if this portion of the claim is so interpreted, the old record of Owen must (under the Office Action’s interpretation) correspond to the first data record of the claims. In the claims, however, the second integrity checksum would then have to be computed based on the old record (first integrity checksum) and the current record

(second data record). Thus, the computation recited in the presently pending claims is not anticipated by Owen.

Fourth feature: This is actually the only feature in the claim that explicitly recites computing (“computing a third integrity checksum” as recited in claim 8). It is said, in the Office Action, that the computing is similar to the one that was disclosed with reference to the third feature (above). However, as argued above, the computation is not the same. Furthermore, the computation is not similar in any meaningful or “obvious” way. Instead, the computation is simply and entirely different.

Fifth feature: The Office Action stated that the comparison (“comparing the second integrity checksum to the third integrity checksum ...” as recited in claim 8) is same as “If the two validation values match, we know with a high level of confidence that the record is in the identical state it was in just before the changes reflected in the journal entry were made,” as allegedly taught in Owen. In claims 8, 15, 24, and 31 there is, however, no mechanism recited for making changes. The whole purpose of certain embodiments of the technology disclosed in these claims is to verify that changes have not been made at all. Thus, Owen’s disclosure is not an obvious variant of what is claimed, it is a completely different technology.

In short, Owen does not disclose a system similar to the present invention as recited in the presently pending claims. The only arguably common feature (not an admission of relevance) is that both are related to databases. The purpose of the present invention (in various disclosed embodiments) is completely different and the mechanisms

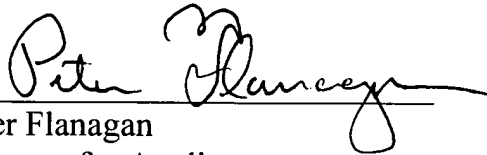
for providing the solution for the problems of the cited art are completely different. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that each of independent claims 1, 8, 15, 17, 24, 31, 33, and 39 is non-obvious with respect to Owen, and it is respectfully requested that the rejection of claims 1, 8, 15, 17, 24, 31, 33, and 39 be withdrawn.

For the reasons set forth above, and for the reasons already of record filed on March 12, 2008, it is respectfully submitted that each of the presently pending claims recites subject matter that is neither disclosed nor suggested in the cited art. It is, therefore, respectfully requested that all of the pending claims be allowed, and that this application be passed to issuance.

If for any reason the Examiner determines that the application is not now in condition for allowance, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner contact, by telephone, Applicants' undersigned representative at the indicated telephone number to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this application.

In the event this paper is not being timely filed, the applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Any fees for such an extension together with any additional fees may be charged to Counsel's Deposit Account 50-2222.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Peter Flanagan", written over a horizontal line.

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Enclosures: RCE Transmittal
Petition for Extension of Time
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